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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6091
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES IMMEDIATE
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 0058
RUEHBL/AMCONSUL BELFAST IMMEDIATE 0209
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SUBJECT: IRELAND CONSIDERING ADDITIONAL PAKISTAN PLEDGES

REF: STATE 200915

On October 1-2, Pol/Econ Counselor shared reftel points with Rory Montgomery and Colm O'Floinn, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Political Director and Deputy Political Director, respectively. On October 4, Econoff also discussed reftel with Cait Moran, First Secretary for Emergency and Recovery in Development Cooperation Ireland (DCI, the aid agency within DFA). Moran noted that Ireland had committed/dispensed euro 5 million to Pakistan earthquake relief efforts and that Minister of State for Overseas Development, Conor Lenihan, had restated Ireland's commitment to Pakistan's recovery during recent Parliamentary testimony.

Ireland, said Moran, was willing to consider additional contributions, but preferred to wait until the completion of a needs assessment conducted by Pakistan, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank. She conveyed Ireland's view that additional pledges should focus on immediate relief as a higher priority than reconstruction.

BENTON